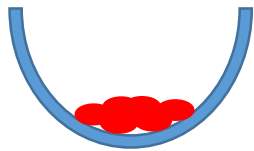
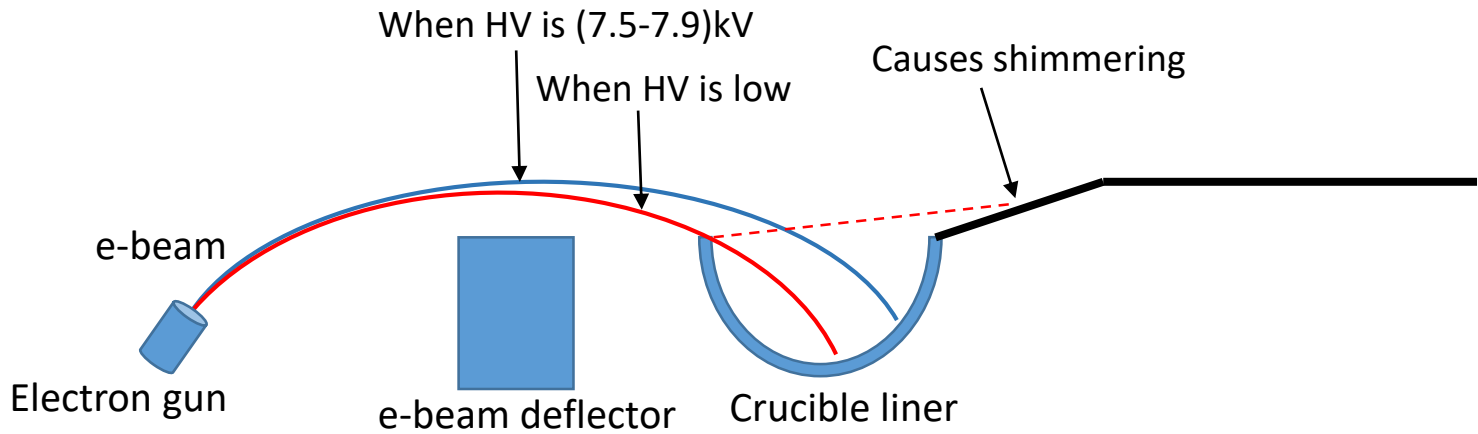


# EvoVac: Using e-beam apparatus



Not the best way to place the source material in the crucible liner.



Placing the source material this allows for maximum exposure of the material to e-beam.

# Single-ion anisotropy in rare-earth metals (*4f* Lanthanides)

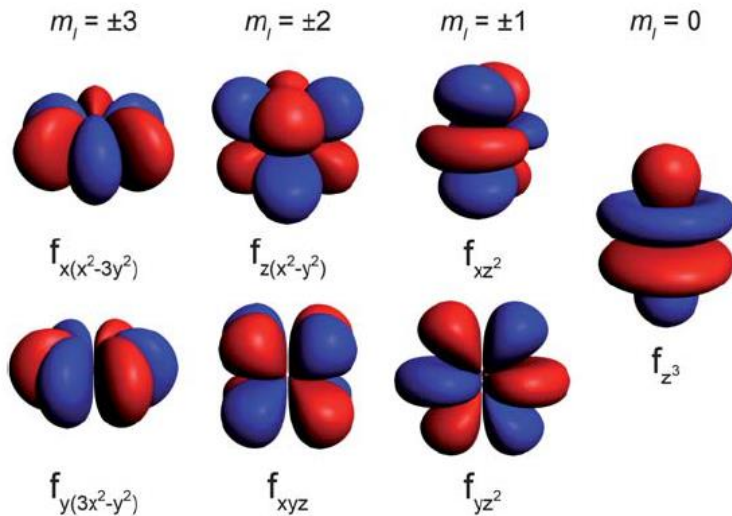
Kishan Sinha

Xu Lab

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



# Electron distribution in 4f lanthanides



Representations of the 4f orbitals

Highest magnitude  $m_j$  - most oblate shape  
Lowest magnitude  $m_j$  - most prolate shape

High  $m_j \rightarrow$  high net magnetic moment along z-axis

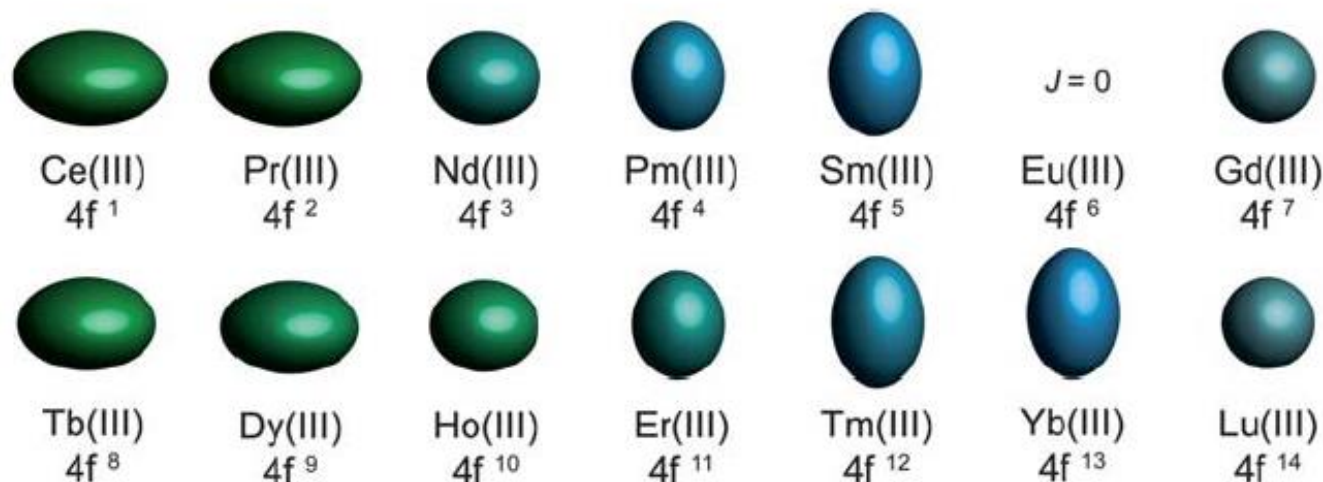
Rare-earths metals exhibit strong spin-orbit (LS) coupling as opposed to their 3d transition metal counterparts.

Consequently, the “good” quantum number is  $j$  (total angular momentum) and not  $s$ .

This leads to weaker coupling between electronic distribution in rare-earth ions and the crystal field due to ligands.

$\rightarrow$  Crystal field is treated as a perturbation on LS coupling term in the Hamiltonian.  
(This is in stark contrast with the way transition metal ions behave.)

## Electron distribution in $4f$ lanthanides

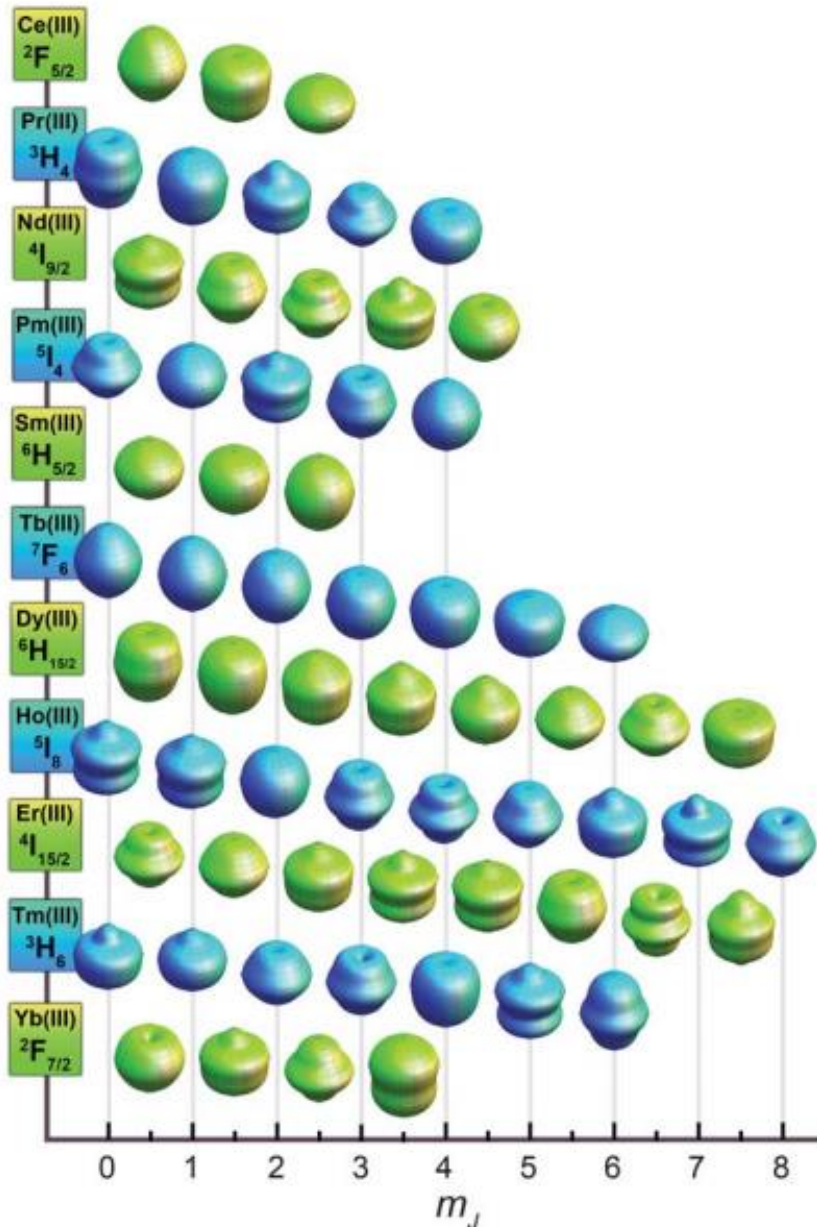


Quadrupole approximations of the  $4f$ -shell electron distribution for the tripositive lanthanides.

Values are calculated using the total angular momentum quantum number ( $J$ ), the Stevens coefficient of second order ( $\alpha$ ) and the radius of the  $4f$  shell squared  $\langle r^2 \rangle$ .

Europium is not depicted as a  $J = 0$  ground state.

## 4f Electron distribution vs. $m_j$

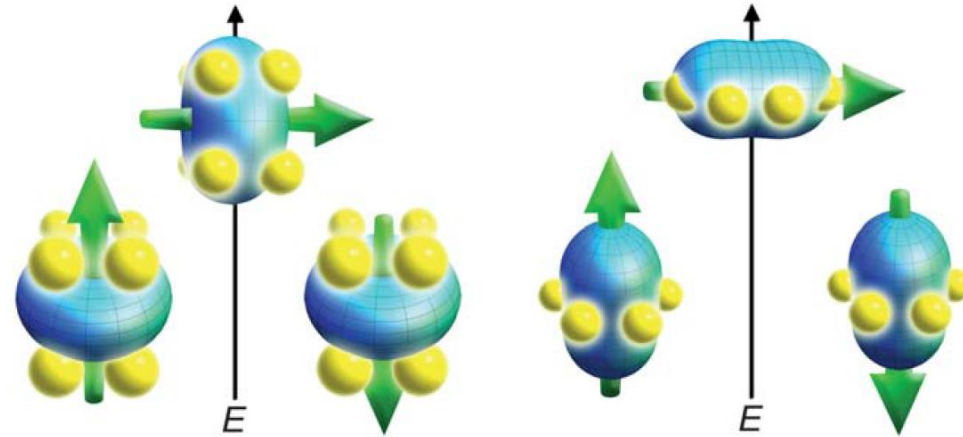


In the absence of crystal field, all  $m_j$  states are degenerate.

Applications in magnetic materials would require crystal fields that minimize the energy of highest  $m_j$  states.

This would lead to doubly-degenerate ground state with high  $m_j$  states.  
→ Augment anisotropy.

# Low and High energy configurations



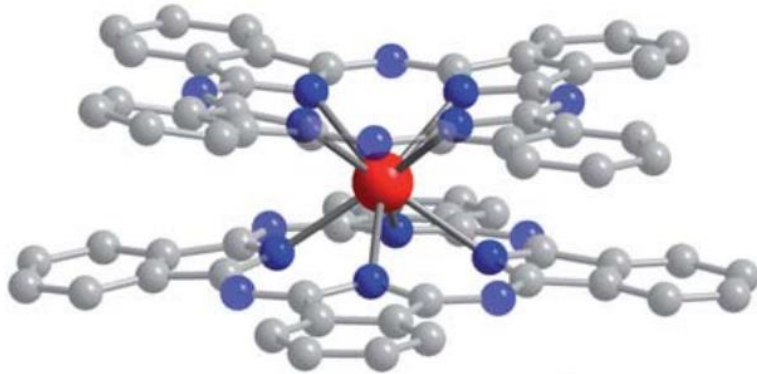
4*f* ion with oblate electron density

4*f* ion with prolate electron density

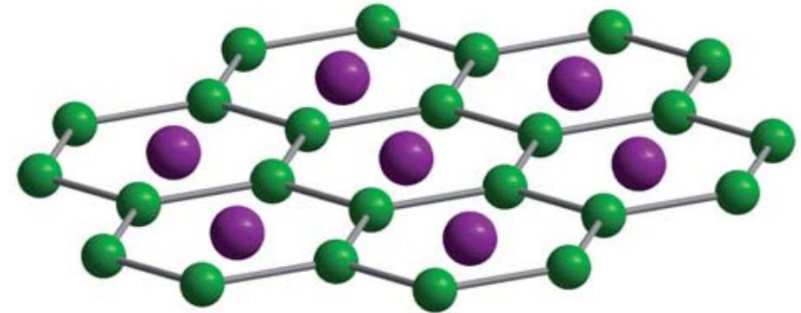
Depictions of low- and high-energy configurations of the *f*-orbital electron density with respect to the crystal field environment for an oblate and a prolate electron density.

- The green arrow represents the orientation of the spin angular momentum coupled to the orbital moment.
- For the **oblate electron density**, an **axial** “sandwich”- type crystal field minimizes the energy of the  $m_j = J$  (high moment) state.
- For the **prolate electron density**, an **equatorial** “sandwich”- type crystal field minimizes the energy of the  $m_j = J$  (high moment) state.

## Materials using strong single-ion anisotropy



$[\text{TbPc}_2]^-$



$\text{SmCo}_5$

- $\text{Pc}_2^-$  = phthalocyanine  
Red-Terbium; blue-nitrogen; gray-carbon
- **Tb** here is an **oblate ion**.
- Axial ligands reduce the energy of the highest  $m_j$ .
- Hence, stabilizing the maximum moment state.
- The structure has high and stable out-of-plane magnetic moment.

- **Sm** here is a **prolate ion**.
- Equatorial ligands reduce the energy of the highest  $m_j$ .
- Hence, stabilizing the maximum moment state.
- The structure has high and stable out-of-plane magnetic moment.



***Thank you!***